

FINAL

Town of Weare Finance Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of January 20, 2010

The Finance Committee met on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, at 6:10 p.m. in the Conservation Room in the Town Office.

Present were Janet Benson, Gregg Elwood, Neal Kurk, Brenda Lashway (chairman), Diane McDowell, John Rauscher, Ike Shepard, and Mark Sullivan.

1. **Minutes:** the minutes of the January 6, 2010, meeting were approved as drafted.

2. **Recommendation timing:** the Committee discussed the dates of forthcoming deliberative sessions and the timing and distribution of a printed report of its recommendations. It was agreed the first drafts of explanations of each recommendation would be prepared by members of the responsible division and distributed by email to Committee members.

3. Recommendations with respect to Weare school district warrant articles:

- a. Article 3: operating budget. Not recommended (6-2).
- b. Article 4: teacher's contract: Not recommended (6-0-2).
- c. Article 6: Support staff contract. No vote was taken; awaiting additional information.
- d. Article 8: Building maintenance expendable trust. Recommended (8-0).
- e. Article 10: Additional bus routes. Not recommended (7-1).

4. Recommendations with respect to John Stark regional high school district warrant articles:

- a. Article 3: Operating budget. Recommended (8-0).
- b. Article 4: Support staff contract. No vote taken; awaiting additional information.
- c. Article 6: Roof replacement expendable trust. Recommended (8-0).
- d. Article 7: Building and grounds expendable trust. Recommended (8-0).
- e. Article 8: Land lease. Recommended (8-0).

5. Recommendations with respect to Weare town warrant articles:

- a. Article 8: Town road repairs. Recommended (8-0).
- b. Article 9: Hazardous waste collection. Recommended (8-0).
- c. Article 10: Capital reserve funds. Recommended (6-2).
- d. Article 11-13: Part-time EMT positions. No vote taken; awaiting additional information.
- e. Article 14: Police contract. Recommended (5-3).
- f. Article 16: Fireworks. Not recommended (7-1).
- g. Article 17: Library custodial staff. Not recommended (7-1).
- h. Article 7: Capital reserve funds: No recommendation (4-4).
- i. Article 6: Operating budget. Not recommended (6-0-2).

6. Tax impact: at this point in its deliberations, the Committee estimated the tax effect of its recommendations above as follows:

Weare schools	\$5.57
John Stark school	5.92
State tax	2.12
County tax	.94
Weare town	<u>2.39</u>
	\$16.94

This represents an increase of \$0.34, or 2.0%, compared to the 2009 tax rate of \$16.60. Were the selectmen to use the 2009 surplus of \$140,000 to offset taxes, the tax rate for 2010 would drop by 15c. This would leave the town with a general fund surplus of approximately \$1,230,000, or just under 7% of the amount raised by taxes and within the range recommended by the N.H. Department of Revenue Administration.

At 10 p.m. the meeting was recessed until 6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, in the Conservation Room.

Recessed Meeting

The recessed meeting convened at 6:10 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, in the Selectmen's Office, as the Conservation Room had been previously booked by others. The same eight members were in attendance. Based on the final version of the town warrant and additional data on other matters, and after extensive discussion, the Committee acted on several articles, reviewed and revised its recommendations on several others, and recalculated the tax impact, as follows:

7. Recommendations with respect to Weare school district warrant articles:

- a. Article 6: Support staff contract. Recommended (8-0).

8. Recommendations with respect to John Stark regional high school district warrant articles:

- a. Article 4: Support staff contract. Not recommended (7-0-1).

9. Recommendations with respect to Weare town warrant articles:

- a. Article 7: Capital reserve funds: Not recommended (7-0).
b. Article 11: Part-time EMT positions. Recommended (3-2-2).
c. Article 12 (previously 14): Police contract. The Committee revisited this article and was divided. Without recommended (4-4).

10. Tax Impact: the Committee recalculated the tax impact of its recommendations, assuming the selectmen implemented their publicly-state intention of using the 2009 surplus to offset 2010 taxes.

Weare schools	\$5.48
John Stark school	5.96
State tax	2.12
County tax	.94
Weare town	2.36
Use of 2009 town surplus (\$123,000)	<u>(0.13)</u>
	\$16.73

This represents an increase of \$0.13 or 0.08% (less than 1.0%) increase in the overall tax rate. Although this exceeds the “no tax rate increase” objective, the Committee decided to proceed to print and distribute its recommendations. The specific details of each recommendation were approved in a document entitled “2010 Report” dated January 27, 2009, which is attached to the minutes.

11. Printing and distribution: Gregg volunteered to have 400 copies of the Committee’s recommendation duplicated and Brenda and Dianne volunteered to distribute 200 copies in the town office, post office and three stores. The remaining 200 copies are for distribution at the three deliberative sessions.

The Committee adjourned, next to meet at the call of the chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal M. Kurk, Secretary